

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/667,169	BANSAL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jeffrey A. Smith	3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 3/3/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4,6,8-12,15,17,19-23,26,28 and 30-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Title

The title has been changed to:

--Methods, systems, and computer program products for dynamically bidding in and conducting multiple simultaneous online auctions located across multiple online auction sites--

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Rackson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,270 B1) is of particular interest. Rackson et al. discloses a method of dynamically bidding, through a software agent, in online auctions accessible over a communications network (see embodiment beginning at col. 23, line 30). Here, Rackson discloses that "[a]n ending date and time for the bidding on this item type may be specified by the bidder using a calendar-like interface (412)". The Examiner notes, however, that this differs from the recitation "said plurality of auctions are located across multiple online auction sites and are scheduled to close for bidding simultaneously" (emphasis added). Although a bidder in Rackson et al. may specify an ending date and time for the bidding (col. 24, lines 11-13), this is not to say that such specification has the effect of scheduling a plurality of auctions to close for bidding simultaneously. It appears that the Rackson et al. ending date specified by the bidder provides a deadline date/time at which no further bids will be placed by that particular bidder. This is not to say, however, that the plurality of auctions will be closed for bidding to other bidders at such simultaneous date/time. Further, it is noted

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that the plurality of auctions of Rackson et al. are not scheduled to close for bidding simultaneously since Rackson teaches that some of the tracked auctions are in a more advanced state than others--i.e., some having "just begun", while others are "about to end" (see col. 25, lines 42-46). Finally, it is noted that Rackson et al. displays parameters of tracked auctions. Figure 14 shows such display and indicates different "time remaining" statuses (532) for each remote auction (526). This indicates that the auctions are not scheduled to close for bidding simultaneously.

Alternatively, Rackson et al. does disclose an embodiment in which a plurality of auctions are located across multiple online auction sites and are scheduled to close for bidding simultaneously (see col. 20, line 54-col. 21, line 25). However, Rackson et al. is silent with regard to the agent selecting these plurality of auctions and the manner in which the agent proceeds on being outbid in any auction. It is worth noting that this embodiment involves a bid replication technique in which a common bid is replicated across the plurality of auction sites. This technique does not require a determination be made as to whether to place an additional bid in a first auction or some other auction. This is because the simultaneous

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auctions in this embodiment replicate any single bid to all auction sites.

Neither Rackson et al. nor any other prior art of record disclose or fairly and reasonably teach the above-noted features.

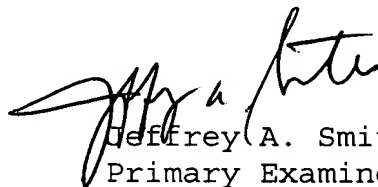
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey A. Smith whose telephone number is 703-308-3588. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on 703-308-1344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jeffrey A. Smith
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3625

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